

ALDERMEN VOTE FOR POLICE PROBE

Adopt Resolution Appointing Committee to Investigate Vice Commission's Charges.

COUNCIL TO MEET TO-NIGHT

Puller Sharply Criticizes Mayor's Course in Dealing With Vice Agitation.

Voting down, 10 to 1, a resolution offered by Alderman Puller asking Judge D. C. Richardson to impanel a special grand jury to conduct an investigation of the whole Police Department, the Board of Aldermen last night, without a dissenting vote, adopted a resolution offered by Alderman Grundy, providing for the appointment of a joint committee to investigate the subject matter of the three reports of the Vice Commission and report its recommendation to either branch of the Council.

President Peters, of the Common Council, who witnessed the proceedings, immediately after the adjournment of the Board, instructed City Clerk August to call a special meeting of the lower branch for 8 o'clock to-night to get on the joint resolution adopted by the Aldermen. It will, without question, be concurred in and act at once to the Mayor for his signature.

TEXT OF RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY ALDERMEN

The text of the Grundy resolution adopted by the Board follows:

"Be it resolved by the Council of the City of Richmond, the Common Council concurring:

"That the communication from His Honor, the Mayor, George Ainslie, and the report of the Vice Commission and all the papers accompanying it, submitted to the Board of Aldermen March 18, 1915, be and are hereby referred to a special joint committee composed of five (5) members of the Board of Aldermen and three (3) members of the Common Council, to be appointed by the presidents of the respective branches; and it shall be the duty of the said committee to investigate the subject matter of said report and papers, and report to either branch with their conclusions and such recommendations as they deem proper, and said committee is hereby expressly authorized to require the attendance of witnesses and the production of papers deemed by them necessary in making said investigation; and the City Attorney is required to attend the sittings of said joint committee and aid them in said investigation. And the sum of ninety-nine dollars (\$99) or so much thereof as may be necessary, and the same is hereby appropriated out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated to pay the expense incident to the making of such investigation."

PACKED COUNCIL CHAMBER HEARS PULLER'S ARGUMENT

A packed Council chamber was on hand to witness the proceedings which, except for a sharp attack by Alderman Puller on the Grundy resolution and on the course that the Mayor has pursued in the vice agitation, was devoid of anything sensational. The crowd stood patiently for three-quarters of an hour while the Board debated the "little budget" resolution, only to leave without hearing the sensational evidence that had been expected.

When City Clerk August reported the communication from the Mayor containing his recommendation that the Council investigate the conduct of the Police Commissioners named in report No. 2 of the Vice Commission, Alderman Puller moved that the reading of the commission's three reports be dispensed with. The motion was carried unanimously, and the reports were not again referred to.

NO REFERENCE MADE TO ACCUSED COMMISSIONERS

Alderman Grundy thereupon offered his resolution providing for the appointment of a joint investigating committee, and Alderman Puller took the floor with a thirty-minute speech, in which he opposed such a course on the ground that it was ill-advised, recommending instead that the whole matter be turned over to a special grand jury.

In the course of the whole session not a single reference was made to Commissioners Weil, McCarthy, or Gooden, the three members of the Police Board who are accused in the Vice Commission's last report of official wrongdoing grave enough to warrant a full investigation.

Immediately before adjournment, President Adams took the floor with a statement in which he expressed the hope that the newspaper men present would exercise due discretion in the treatment of the matter contained in the Vice Commission's third report. His experience with Richmond newspapers, he said, warranted him in believing that a request of this kind was almost superfluous, and that the newspaper men would in this case, as they have done in all other, exercise a sane censorship as regards unnecessary and unsavory detail.

MITCHELL REPORT SUPPRESSED

The admonition to the press was taken seriously to heart by Alderman Mitchell, who promptly made a motion placing the three reports in the custody of the clerk, to be secretly guarded by him from unofficial eyes, and delivered by him to the special investigating committee for such disposition as that body saw fit. The motion was carried, and the Board adjourned.

Having had previous assurance that the Mayor's communication, once it was opened and presented to the Board, would be public property and open to

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MAYO TRIAL POSTPONED

Absence of Lawyer Prevents Case From Being Called on Saturday.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] NEW HAVEN, CONN., March 18.—The trial of Virginus Mayo, whose tangled love affairs were barred by the suicide of pretty Lillian Cook, one of his factory employees, on charges preferred by Miss Susie Wahlers, another former employee, who charges the gray-haired manufacturer is the father of her two-year-old daughter, has been postponed. It was to have been held on Saturday, but Attorney Benjamin Slade, counsel for Mayo, told Justice of Peace Land, before whom the hearing will be held, he had to be in Waterbury that day.

Mrs. Wilhelmina Mayo, the only wife whom Mayo openly acknowledges, returned to her home on Dixwell Avenue, to-day, following a week's absence. She stated that she had engaged counsel, but would not tell why. She denied she intended seeking divorce.

The report that Lillian Cook might have been slain and her body "planted" in the woods where it was subsequently found, was scoffed at by the police here to-day. They declared they were satisfied the girl committed suicide where she was found, and that they would not investigate the story.

STEEL EARNINGS DECLINE

Corporation's Report for 1914 Offers Proof of Depression.

NEW YORK, March 18.—The United States Steel Corporation's report for 1914, issued to-day, offers proof of depression in the steel industry during the last year. Earnings of \$11,746,518 show a decrease of \$5,421,000, compared with 1913, while the net income of \$46,250,465 indicated a decrease of \$5,800,284.

Net income for 1914 shows a deficit of \$16,971,584, against a surplus of \$30,582,184 the previous year.

In 1914 the corporation mined only 17,654,591 tons of iron ore, against 28,753,451 tons in 1913, and its total production decreased 2,350,325 tons to 9,614,512 tons.

The average number of employees in service last year was 175,632, against 225,905 in 1913, and the pay roll decreased from \$207,306,175 to \$162,379,907. Average salaries of employees at the mills were higher, however, the increase being from \$2.39 a day to \$2.48.

NEW WAGE SCALE AGREED ON

Will Affect About 15,000 Men in West Virginia Coal Fields.

CINCINNATI, March 18.—Operators and miners in the New River and Windling Gulf coal districts of West Virginia reached an agreement here to-day which will cover the wage rates for miners in these two districts for the next four years. The operators signed the agreement, and the representatives of the miners tentatively agreed to subject to a referendum vote of the miners.

The miners' representatives said the referendum was a mere formality, and they anticipated no opposition to the agreement. The new agreement provides for a slight wage advance for day labor. The pick and mining machine rates will be governed by the rates in competitive fields. A committee is to be appointed to settle all further grievances. About 15,000 men are affected.

EASY GETAWAY FROM TOMBS

Clever Forger, Armed With Visitor's Pass, Walks Out.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] NEW YORK, March 18.—Armed with a visitor's pass made out to "Jack Kelly," Jacob Abrams, in the Tombs, under sentence of from three to five years in Sing Sing for forgery, walked nonchalantly out of the Tombs Prison this afternoon. Patrick Dalton, rightful possessor of the pass, is locked up at police headquarters, charged with aiding and abetting a convict to escape. Dalton was placed under arrest when he attempted to pass the gatekeeper without presenting the little piece of pasteboard which had been issued to him at the keeper's office.

A certain air of mystery surrounds the escape of the forger, and a rigid investigation is under way.

Abrams is reputed to be one of the cleverest forgers in the country. He has a long criminal record.

WANTS CHILDREN TO WORK

Commissioner Claxton Would Make Schoolboys and Girls Self-Supporting.

NEW YORK, March 18.—P. P. Claxton, United States Commissioner of Education, in an address here yesterday advocated making the children of the nation self-supporting.

"If one or two little boys could raise \$100 worth of vegetables during the summer months," he said, "it makes a great difference to their families. Let the children work. It is the best thing in the world for them, provided the work is congenial and brings into play their creative faculties."

NO THAW HEARING TO-DAY

Postponement Announced After Conference Between Judge and Lawyers.

NEW YORK, March 18.—Hearing on the writ of habeas corpus sworn out in behalf of Harry K. Thaw will not be held to-morrow, as had been planned. It was announced to-day, after a conference between Justice Bijur and counsel for Thaw and the State. No date was set.

Thaw, meanwhile, will remain in the custody of the Tombs warden.

WILSON AND TAFT TO SPEAK

Corner-Stone of Red Cross Building to Be Laid on March 27.

WASHINGTON, March 18.—President Wilson and former President William Howard Taft will stand side by side at the laying of the corner-stone of the American Red Cross Memorial Building on March 27. President Wilson, as honorary president of the organization, will preside, and introduce the other speakers. He will make the principal address.

POLLARD WARNS OF 'WET' PLOTTING

Expects Liquor Interests to Run "Dry" Men Against "Dry" Men.

ASKS PREFERENTIAL BALLOT

Dr. R. H. Pitt, of Richmond, Is Elected New President of Anti-Saloon League.



R. H. Pitt, D.D.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] NORFOLK, VA., March 18.—Attorney-General John Garland Pollard to-night contributed one of the most interesting addresses heard by the annual convention of the Virginia Anti-Saloon League, which adjourned to-night, after a three days' session here. Incidentally, Mr. Pollard's reference to his candidacy for Governor was taken, in connection with his other remarks, as a bid for the united support of the temperance forces.

Dr. R. H. Pitt, of Richmond, was elected president of the league for the ensuing year.

Rev. George W. McDaniel, of Richmond, preceded Mr. Pollard to-night, and made several references to the prohibition candidates in the field, saying that he had two friends, both of them avowed candidates for the governorship, but he failed to commit himself as to which friend he favored. "When the time comes for election," said Dr. McDaniel, "the 'dry' candidate who isn't willing to jump his interests with prohibition must forfeit his right to the support of the people."

POLLARD HAS NO DOUBT AS TO BEST MAN FOR PLACE

"I am surprised at Dr. McDaniel," remarked Mr. Pollard. "He seems to have some doubt about who should be the next Governor of Virginia. This seems so plain to me that I can't understand how anybody could have any doubt on the question."

Mr. Pollard was introduced by Dr. Asbury Christian, of Richmond, who remarked that the phrase usually went, "the law and the Gospel," but that in this instance it had been reversed, and the law in the person of Mr. Pollard was speaking second.

"The law and the Gospel," said Mr. Pollard, "teaching and practicing. Dr. McDaniel does the preaching and I do the practicing."

"A great deal has been said during the past year about the advancement of the cause of temperance. Nineteen States adopted prohibition laws during the year, and you can now walk from the Atlantic to the Pacific on dry ground. You can also walk from Canada to Mexico on dry ground, without touching a single 'wet' spot. This is wonderful progress, but I fear the note I strike will be discordant, because I do not feel so much like talking about what has been done as about what is before."

"I am very new in politics," continued Mr. Pollard, "and so it would be braver of me to offer advice. But the 'wet' orators told us truly that prohibition has not been always and everywhere a success. I fought for prohibition because I was deeply convicted that if it could be made a success anywhere, it could be made a success in Virginia."

"JOHN BARLEYCORN" PERSISTENT INVADER

"John Barleycorn," according to the Attorney-General, is a persistent invader, who, though put out of the house, will not stay out, but will climb in again at any point that is open.

"And whom shall be appoint?" he asked, "to keep him out. Shall we appoint those who said in the first place that he should not be put out or those who said, in the second place, that he couldn't be kept out if put out? Or shall we appoint those who thought there was enough brain and brawn in Virginia to put him out and keep him out?" There was applause at this.

"Men should be elected," he continued, "who are strong enough to have the backbone to enforce the law." Nor did Mr. Pollard forget rival "dry" candidates seeking election, though he called no names.

"But," he commented, speaking of the liquor interests, "they will induce 'dry' men to run against 'dry' men, and they first want a secret understanding with one of the so-called 'dry' men." Here he made his reference to Dr. McDaniel's "doubt" about the proper "dry" candidate, and continued these remarks by advocating the preferential ballot as one of the legislative enactments of the next General Assembly, which, through its first and second choice provisions, he said, would take away a powerful lever from "the enemy."

Mr. Pollard reviewed the functions of government as being identical with the functions of Christianity, arguing

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INSIST ON RIGHTS OF UNITED STATES

Protest to Be Sent to Great Britain and France Now Being Prepared.

POSITION OF THIS COUNTRY

Attitude Not Altered as Result of Explanations in Recent Exchange of Notes.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 18.—The United States considers that Great Britain and France, in the British order in council and accompanying notes, have not answered questions propounded to them as to what warrant there is under international law for the establishment of an embargo on all commercial intercourse, directly and indirectly, between Germany and neutral countries.

It was stated officially at the State Department to-day that this government still does not know whether the action of the allies is intended as a legal blockade or whether ordinary rules of contraband and noncontraband are to be their legal basis for future detentions. On a determination of this question probably will depend, not only the nature of any steps to be taken by the United States now, but also the basis for damage claims arising out of the interruptions to American commerce.

POSITION OF UNITED STATES SUBSTANTIALLY OUTLINED

In preparing the protest to be sent to Great Britain and France, the position of the United States substantially is as follows:

1. If the action of the allies is a blockade, all commerce directly with Germany can be halted by making the blockade effective, a certain "radius of activity" being allowed for the blockading warships off the German coast because of the newly developed activity of submarines. But there can be no legal blockade of the coast of neutral countries of Europe contiguous to those at war under any circumstances, and commerce between the United States and neutrals, especially in noncontraband, should be free from interruption, irrespective of ultimate destination.

2. If the action is not a blockade, then there exists no legal right to detain cotton or other noncontraband cargoes, even when consigned directly to German ports. Nor can foodstuffs or conditional contraband be justly interrupted unless proven, though consigned to Germany, to be destined for the use of its belligerent forces and not its civilian population. Under the same circumstances, too, there is no legal basis for detaining cargoes consigned from the United States to the neutral countries of Europe if containing cotton or noncontraband goods, irrespective of ultimate destination. Similarly, the allies cannot, under the law, interrupt shipments of foodstuffs and other conditional contraband en route between the United States and neutral countries, unless clearly proven to be going eventually to the belligerent forces of Germany and not its civilian population.

3. Neutral countries of Europe may declare embargoes on re-exportation of contraband or noncontraband, thus preventing supplies from reaching Germany. With this sovereign right the United States does not take issue, but it will insist on its right to ship to neutral countries, placing the burden of stopping further progress on the latter nations themselves.

DOES NOT AFFECT STATUS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

In considering the foregoing propositions officials realize that Great Britain and her allies have set up the claim that their actions constitute retaliatory measures against Germany, but this, in the view of the American government, does not affect the status of international law as between the United States and the belligerents.

The American attitude has not been changed materially as a result of explanations in the exchange of notes with Great Britain and France. On whatever communications or protests are made by the Washington government, the questions asked in the identical inquiry to Great Britain and France. In this the allies are asked whether the rules of blockade or the rules governing contraband and noncontraband were to be followed, application of both being viewed "as having no precedent in international law."

Great Britain's answer has indicated that the cargoes diverted into British ports and owned by neutrals will be restored to their owners, but this will not affect the insistence of the United States on the legal rights of its subjects to ship cargoes of a noncontraband character to and from neutral countries without interruption and regardless of their destination.

During the Civil War the United States enforced a rigid blockade of the Southern waters by stopping cargoes while plying between neutral ports, but in the famous *Minors* case, finally ruled upon by Chief Justice Chase, of the Supreme Court of the United States, the rule of blockade and continuous voyage in shipments between England and Mexico were not held to extend to goods of a noncontraband character. State Department officials, recalling the case to-day, pointed out that noncontraband goods were released and permitted to be forwarded to their destination in the Confederate States. These cases have formed the precedent for American practice ever since the decisions were accepted by Great Britain at the time as equitable.

COMMUNICATION TO ALLIES NOT FINALLY DRAFTED

High officials said to-day that no communication to the allies had been finally drafted, but that memoranda on the subject were being prepared. It was declared at the State Department

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NEXT FIGHT IN WEST ON BANKS OF YSER

RUSSIANS TAKE IMPORTANT POSITIONS NEAR PRZASNYSZ

WHILE there is a lull in the west, heavy fighting is going on in Russian Poland and Eastern Galicia. The Russian official dispatches report the capture of several villages and heights northeast of Przasnysz, in territory where some of the fiercest fighting of the war has occurred. Also near the border town of Tauragien and in East Prussia, close to Memel, battles are being fought, which indicate the intention of the Russians of again forcing their way, if possible, into the country of the Germans.

Although the opposing forces in the Carpathians and East Galicia are struggling to their utmost in the deep snow, and under the most trying conditions, no change worthy of note has taken place in the situation. Austria is reported to be continuing work on fortifications along the Italian frontier, and the garrisons have been re-enforced by artillery and infantry.

Switzerland advises that the Germans are building two strategic railroads on the Alsace-Lorraine frontier, to strengthen the Straasburg system of fortifications.

A Zeppelin has attacked Calais, dropping bombs, with the object of destroying the railway station. This met with no success, but seven persons were killed.

Another British steamer, the Glenartney, from Bangkok for London, loaded with rice, has been torpedoed by a German submarine off Beachy Head, in the English Channel. One of the crew was drowned.

The entire Sudan, including Khartoum, and also parts of Nubia, are held by the desert tribes, according to the story told by a German merchant who has returned to Berlin from Egypt. The British general, Hawley, and almost 2,000 of his men are said to have been killed near Fashoda in December; while earlier in November Senegal tribesmen are reported to have killed 200 Australians near the Pyramids. Railroad and telegraph lines were destroyed.

Three steamers, carrying American meat products, which had been detained by the British government for examination, have been permitted to proceed. They are the Norwegian Elms, the Swedish Grekland and the American A. A. Raven.

The German Reichstag has adopted, without debate, the war estimates, and also passed the foreign estimates.

The French Chamber of Deputies has unanimously passed a bill authorizing the government to raise the limit for the issue of treasury bonds for defense from \$700,000,000 to \$900,000,000.

VIOLATION OF GERMAN TREATY RIGHTS CHARGED

Consul at Seattle Makes Complaint Through Embassy at Washington.

INVESTIGATION IS ORDERED

Both Federal and State Officers Accused of Certain Activities Without Authority—Departments at Washington Take Prompt Action.

SEATTLE, WASH., March 18.—Another complaint that treaty rights of Germany had been violated by an officer was made to-night by Dr. Wilhelm Mueller, German consul at Seattle, technically arrested yesterday with his assistant, Schulz, on a State warrant charging conspiracy to bribe an employee of a corporation.

Dr. Mueller, through the German embassy at Washington, complained to-day that State officers had violated treaty rights in invading his office. Further violation of treaty rights, this time by Federal officers, was alleged to-night by Dr. Mueller, who declared that on Monday customs officers boarded and searched the Hamburg-American liner Saxonia, interned near here, without notifying him. The captain of the Saxonia reported the matter to the consul to-day.

Senior Captain F. M. Dunwoody, of the United States coast guard service, to-night said that Captain Benjamin Lichtenberg, commanding the coast guard cutter Scout, had boarded the Saxonia to make a "social call," and that there had been no thought of searching the vessel.

COMPLAINS THAT DEPUTY INVADDED HIS OFFICE

Dr. Mueller wrote a letter to-day to Sheriff Robert T. Hodge, complaining that Deputy Sheriff Fred Lathe had invaded his office in search of Dan Tarnaskey, in violation of treaty rights, and demanded an explanation. Chief Deputy John Stringer, in the absence of Sheriff Hodge, replied that Lathe had visited the consul's office without orders from the sheriff.

Prosecuting Attorney Alfred H. Lundberg contradicted Stringer's statement, and declared that he had notified the sheriff's office that he was sending Lathe to the German consulate to arrest Tarnaskey. Mr. Lundberg, furthermore, said that although Tarnaskey was arrested in the corridor outside the consulate, Lathe would have been within his rights if he had arrested him within the consul's office, as Tarnaskey was charged with grand larceny, a felony.

No instructions were received by United States District Attorney Clay Allen to-day to investigate the alleged violation of treaty rights.

TAKE PROMPT ACTION TO ASCERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES

WASHINGTON, March 18.—On receiving a protest from the German embassy, the Departments of State and Justice to-day took prompt action to ascertain the circumstances incident to the service of warrants on the German consul and his assistant at Seattle, Wash.

At the request of the State Department, the Bureau of Investigation of the Department of Justice telegraphed its Seattle agent to look into the case and make a complete report of the facts to Washington at once. The German embassy protested to the State Department that Mueller, the consul, and Schulz, his assistant, were arrested in violation of a treaty between Germany and the United States.

More Cattle Infected.

LOUISVILLE, KY., March 18.—State and Federal authorities, who had believed the foot-and-mouth disease in this section had been checked, discovered to-day that a herd of 480 cattle and 280 hogs at a Louisville distillery had become infected.

FRENCH SUBMARINE SUNK BY DARDANELLES FORTS

Only Few Members of Crew Escape, and These Are Made Prisoners.

WAS HEADED FOR TURKISH SHIP

Through Miscalculation Hull Hits Rocky Shore, Which Compels Boat to Rise to Surface, and Batteries Immediately Destroy Her.

LONDON, March 19 (2:10 A. M.).—The loss of a French submarine boat, in an attempt to run through the Dardanelles, is described by Rear-Admiral Guépratte, of the French Dardanelles fleet, in an interview with the Daily Telegraph's Tenedos correspondent. The attempt apparently was made some time ago, although no announcement has been made of it heretofore.

"The submarine had as its object the sinking of the Turkish cruiser Sultan Selim (formerly the German cruiser Goeben)," the correspondent says. Admiral Guépratte told him: "The submarine was submerged, and successfully navigated the strait to the corner where the Asiatic coast juts out at Nagara."

"Through some miscalculation, the hull struck the rocky shore, which compelled the boat to rise to the surface. Immediately the submarine appeared the forts sank her. Only a few of her crew escaped, and these were made prisoners."

Regarding the present situation in the Dardanelles, Rear-Admiral Guépratte said the waters of the strait are clear as far as Mephex Bernu, to which point all vessels of the fleet can safely navigate. The main mine fields, however, are between Chanak Kalesi and Kilit Bahr, where also are the main coast defenses.

NEW TENTS FOR FOOT TROOPS

Hereafter to Be Supplied With Same Kind Used by Mounted Soldiers.

WASHINGTON, March 18.—Under a decision just rendered by Secretary Garrison, all foot troops of the army, numbering about 75,000, hereafter will be supplied with the same shelter tents as now are issued to mounted troops.

The present shelter tent for dismounted troops has been condemned on the ground that it is too small, and does not afford proper protection from rain. The dismounted tent, with five pins, as carried by each soldier, weighs two pounds twelve ounces, while the mounted shelter tent—with poles and five pins—weighs four pounds seven ounces. Each tent shelters two soldiers.

CAVALRYMEN ACQUITTED

Held Not Guilty of Conspiracy to Steal Money Stolen From Post-Office.

DENVER, COL., March 18.—Theodore Frank, Francis V. Rudd and Max Dorski, of Troop F, Fifth United States Cavalry, were acquitted in Federal court here to-day of conspiracy to conceal money stolen from the post-office at Walsenburg, Col.

A package containing \$15,000 disappeared from the post-office last December during the military occupation of the coal strike region.

INTERURBAN TRAIN HELD UP

Three Masked Men Get Money and Valuables From Passengers.

HOUSTON, TEX., March 18.—The Galveston-Houston interurban, due in this city at 12:40 o'clock, was held up and robbed some miles from the city early this morning by three masked men, who escaped. Eight passengers lost money and valuables, including Robert H. Cornell, of Houston, vice-president of the International Rotary Association.

BELGIAN FORCES ON ONE SIDE FACE GERMANS ON OTHER

Artillery Duel Between These Armies Already Has Commenced.

KAISER'S MEN MAY WAIT FOR RE-ENFORCEMENTS

Most of Reserves Used to Counterattack British at St. Eloi and Neuve Chapelle.

LITTLE NEWS FROM THE EAST

Temporary Lull in Bombardment of Dardanelles and Smyrna.

LONDON, March 18 (10:35 P. M.).—The next important battle in the west, it is believed, will take place along the River Yser, held on one side by the recently reorganized Belgian army and on the other by the Germans.

As the floods have subsided, the Belgians, supported by the allies' warships, have pushed their lines slightly forward, and this is almost certain to lead to counterattacks by the Germans and general engagements, as when similar movements were initiated elsewhere along the front. An artillery duel already has commenced.

There might be a slight delay while the Germans are awaiting re-enforcements, for they have been using most of their reserves to counterattack the British troops at St. Eloi and Neuve Chapelle, and the French north of Arras, but that a big clash will soon come nobody doubts.

The contest for the spur of Notre Dame de Lorette is still in progress, and, according to Berlin, further attempts of the French to advance in Champagne, where they captured an important ridge north of Le Mesnil, have been repulsed. Fighting in the Argonne forest and the Vosges has slackened somewhat, owing, doubtless, to the return of cold weather.

LITTLE NEWS FROM EASTERN FRONT

There is little news from the eastern front, and beyond the fact that the Russians have again crossed the East Prussian frontier in the far northeast, near Tilsit, and that they continue their offensive against the Austrians in Bukovina, there is no change.

There is a temporary lull in the bombardment of the Dardanelles and Smyrna, according to an Athens dispatch, due, it is thought, to unfavorable weather conditions. The Turks are taking advantage of this to repair damage done to the forts and batteries, and they express confidence, which is shared by the German field marshal, Baron von der Goltz, that the strait is impregnable.

The belief is held here, however, that as soon as the ships receive fresh ammunition, they will resume the attack with even greater force.

The conference between the government and labor leaders to arrange for the acceleration of the output of war material, was continued in London to-day and adjourned until to-morrow to complete the agreement reached. The laborers desire assurance that the arrangements entered into now will not prejudicially affect the workers after the war is concluded.

CONDITIONS AT SMYRNA DURING BOMBARDMENT

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] ATHENS, March 18.—An interview with a resident of Smyrna throws an interesting light on affairs there during the bombardment of the city by the British from March 15 to March 18.

On March 9 Car-Arabi Bey, a local official, was summoned, together with the American consul, to the flagship of the British admiral, who proposed that the Turks should open their port, demobilize their troops and allow free entry to the city. The British, for their part, agreed not to land any troops.

Forty-eight hours after being given their reply, the British warships steamed away.

The relations between the English and the Turks during the bombardment were curiously friendly, although the British residents of Smyrna actually were put under a kindly surveillance, Rahmeh Bey, governor of the city, taking tea with them at a local club and providing musical entertainment during the firing.

Whatever the object of the bombardment, whether merely a demonstration to divert troops from Constantinople or not, it is assumed to have been stopped by Turkish threats to massacre Christians. The following proclamation was issued by Rahmeh Bey:

"By grace of the Almighty, the enemy's attacks will cost them dear. A defense equal to that made in the forts, and more terrible still, will be organized against the enemy in the town. The town will be painted from one end to the other with blood of the enemy, who will see all his attempts brought to nought in the transformation of the town into a battle field, which will be worthy of the grandeur of Ottoman history."